

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1-14 have been rejected. Claims 1, 4, 7-11 and 13 have been amended.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sigler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830) in view of Kent (U.S. Patent No. 5,650,995). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For purposes of brevity, all of the comments and remarks from the Applicants' previous response are incorporated into the present Amendment and will not be repeated.

The Office Action acknowledges that the primary reference (Sigler et al.) is defective in that it fails to teach or suggest "receiving a response from the controller that the communication device has been added to the list of current participants in the selected net." The Examiner then applies Kent as a secondary reference to make up for the deficiencies of the primary reference.

The Applicants have amended the claims to further distinguish the Applicants' claimed invention over the applied references. The support for this claim amendment is found in paragraph [0050] of the specification.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that "each communication device in the group communication network is connected to a communications manager (CM) using at least one channel, wherein the channel is divided into separate channels including a session initiation protocol (SIP) channel, a net broadcast service (NBS) media signaling channel, and a media traffic channel."

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present claim amendment has rendered the Office Action moot.

Kents fails to teach or suggest a channel including the separate channels as claimed by the Applicants in the amended claims. Figure 5 of Kent simply refers to a group call request and

group channel assignment. Figure 6A and 6B illustrate communication paths for several talk groups before (FIG. 6A) and after (FIG. 6B) an extended network patch.

In col. 8, lines 11-13, Kent discloses that there are up to thirty-two (32) time division multiplexed (TDM) buses. Each bus contains 32 slots, each slot corresponding to a single audio channel. A maximum of 1024 audio slots may be routed through the multisite switch (i.e., 32 buses x 32 slots), although some of the slots are used for other purposes (e.g. signaling). Eight buses are provided and only 240 channels of digitized audio are carried by the audio TDM network.

Kent fails to teach or suggest that each communication device in the group communication network is connected to a communications manager (CM) using at least one channel, wherein the channel is divided into separate channels including a session initiation protocol (SIP) channel, a net broadcast service (NBS) media signaling channel, and a media traffic channel.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 4, 7-11 and 13 have been amended to recite related subject matter to claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 1 as well as the additionally recited features.

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 12 and 14 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claims 1, 4 and 11 respectively and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 1 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

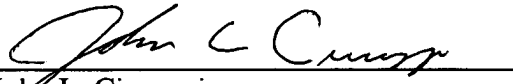
## CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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